

Binnicker. Chief Binnicker served our Nation with honor and distinction for more than 33 years in the United States Air Force, rising to the highest enlisted position: Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

Chief Binnicker was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina, and graduated from Aiken High School in 1956. Following his high school graduation, Chief Binnicker enlisted in the Air Force, where he completed his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. During his long and distinguished Air Force career, Chief Binnicker served both at home and abroad in various capacities including as a life support specialist, air operations superintendent, Vietnamese linguist, First Sergeant and Command Chief Master Sergeant. Serving in such a wide array of challenging positions is a testament to Chief Binnicker's assiduous work ethic and unwavering commitment to duty, and his successful service in myriad capacities led to his selection for various senior leadership positions.

Thanks to his leadership abilities and wide-ranging experience, Chief Binnicker was selected in 1977 to serve as the Air Force Senior Enlisted Advisor on the President's Commission on Military Compensation, before going on to serve in a number of senior leadership roles. As a result of his exceptional service, Chief Binnicker was selected in 1985 for the 33-year extended tenure program, and in July 1986 he became the ninth Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. During his four-year tenure as Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Chief Binnicker served as an adviser to Secretary of the Air Force Edward C. Aldridge Jr. and Air Force Chief of Staff General Larry D. Welch. In this position, he advised Secretary Aldridge and General Welch on matters concerning welfare, effective utilization and progress of enlisted members of the Air Force. During his distinguished career, Chief Binnicker received a number of major awards and decorations, including: the Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters; Joint Service Commendation Medal; Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster; Vietnam Service Medal with three service stars; Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm; and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

As with so many of our Nation's brave servicemembers, the leadership skills and executive experience gained by Chief Binnicker during his military career translated to immense success in the civilian world. Following his retirement from the Air Force, Chief Binnicker worked for a number of years as a senior vice-president at a major insurance company, before being selected to serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Air Force Enlisted Village, Inc. in beautiful Shalimar, Florida. In this position, Chief Binnicker oversaw the operations of Teresa Village, Bob Hope Village, and the Hawthorn House, ensuring a first-class retirement life for more than 400 residents.

In addition to his military service and successful business career, Chief Binnicker was also a leader in the veterans' community and in Northwest Florida's civil society. He served as the director of numerous organizations, including the Air Commando Association; the Air Force Memorial Foundation; the Air Force Sergeants Association Museum Foundation; and Emerald Coast Hospice. As a result of his

leadership and excellence, he received numerous awards, including the Air Force Sergeants Association's Americanism Award and the Executive of the Year Award from the Florida Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

To some Chief Binnicker will be remembered as a patriot who served his country with honor and distinction, reaching the highest echelons of Air Force enlisted service as a result of his character and commitment to service; to others he will be remembered as a successful business executive and leader in civil society; to his family and friends he will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored and privileged to recognize the life of Chief Master Sergeant James C. Binnicker. My wife Vicki joins me in extending our prayers and deepest condolences to his wife, Jan; children, Carmen and Michael; and granddaughter, Julia.

#### NAIMAH SARWAR'S ESSAY

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Naimah Sarwar attends Pearland High School in Pearland, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

I come from a household where there is one rule I have learned from observation when it comes to discussing politics: DON'T. I remember countless times after dinner parties, where my dad would walk out of the parlor where the men would sit to drink tea. Instead of looking like he had just enjoyed a steaming cup of chai, he looked like he had walked out of a war zone. "Three hours," he would say, much to my amusement. "They've been pointlessly arguing about politics for three hours." Instead of simply agreeing to disagree they created a vicious cycle of destructive and in my opinion, hilarious conversation. I have always been obstinately opinionated but rather than joining the conversation, I always chose to remain the casual observer. Why go to the trouble of arguing against someone who would always disagree with you?

But I believe that is the root of the problem when it comes to American involvement in the political process. We have become complacent. We have become detached. We have become scared to raise our voices. We live in one of the greatest democracies in the world. However, I think that sometimes politicians and constituents alike forget what that means. They forget that as citizens, it is up to us to speak up for what we believe in, and that politicians have a duty to rep-

resent those beliefs. The American public needs to be reassured of the strength of its political efficacy because that is what makes our government tick.

After attending Texas Girls' State this summer I made several wonderful friends, who encouraged me to speak up about my opinions. Although we might not agree with each other when we argue about healthcare reform or foreign policy, which embarrassingly enough makes up our "girl talk", we are friends. We agree to disagree. Oftentimes people feel as though their ideas and solutions are so central to their identities that they must defend their beliefs as though defending themselves. I have not only become self-assured enough to share my opinions, but open to hearing the disagreement of others. It is important for people to care about the state of their government, and we must break through the stigma that it is a taboo topic. Bipartisanship not be considered rare. Conversations need to continue. Ideas need to be shared. Although one voice can't swing an election, or pass a law, it can make a difference.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BRIAN SCHWARTZ

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 13, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Brian Schwartz for being named a 2015 Forty Under 40 honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Since 2000, Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a standout group of young leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities and their careers. Each year, forty up-and-coming community and business leaders under 40 years of age are selected for this prestigious honor based on a combined criteria of community involvement and success in their chosen career field. The 2015 class of Forty Under 40 honorees will join an impressive roster of 560 business leaders and growing.

Brian has the determination and drive to be successful in all of his pursuits, which is highlighted by his exemplary work with Baker Group. As an Account Executive, his ability to work well with others is critically important because he oversees multiple programs and events. In his free time, he serves his community through charitable organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Boot Camp for New Dads program. In all aspects of his life, Brian is an example of the hard work and service that makes our state proud.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Brian in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud him for utilizing his talents to better both his community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Brian on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2015 Forty Under 40 class a long and successful career.